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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ZAIRE

A. HASSAN COMMENTS ON DECISION TO SEND TROOPS

KING HASSAN SUMMONED THE SOVIET, FRENCH, CHINESE, BRITISH,
AND US AMBASSADORS TO MARRAKECH APRIL 10 TO EXPLAIN WHY HE
HAD DISPATCHED MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE. HASSAN MAINTAINED:

--THE SHABA INVASION IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE
1961 SECESSIONIST PROBLEM IN THE CONGO OR THE RECENT
INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA: MOBUTU IS THE CHIEF OF
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STATE OF A COUNTRY WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
BORDERS, AND AGGRESSION IS FROM THE OUTSIDE.

--HE WAS RESPONDING TO A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM MOBUTU.

HASSAN SAID HIS 1200-MAN CONTINGENT CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF
VOLUNTEERS, AND HE OFFERED HIS "MOST FORMAL ASSURANCES"

THAT THEY WILL NOT CROSS ZAIRIAN BORDERS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND WILL NOT REMAIN IN ZAIRE AFTER THE TERMINATION

OF THEIR MISSION. HE ADDED THAT INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE COULD AFFECT SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, AND REQUESTED THAT THE GREAT POWERS ACT MODERATELY AND WITH UNDERSTANDING.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: HASSAN'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED THE MOROCCAN NOTIFICATION TO THE OAU AND APPEARS TO BE PART OF A CONCERTED MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN. HASSAN'S REQUEST FOR THE "UNDERSTANDING" OF THE FIVE POWERS, COUPLED WITH THE ATTITUDES OF THE AMBASSADORS TOWARD THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE, GAVE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND MYSELF THE IMPRESSION THAT FOUR OF US WERE USED AS CONVENIENT PROPS FOR A DEMARCHE MEANT PRIMARILY FOR ONE REPRESENTATIVE--THE SOVIET. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 1943 (EXDIS), 4/11.)

B. ZAMBIAN VILLAGES BOMBED

MARK CHONA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA, HAS TOLD EMBASSY LUSAKA THAT THE ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE BOMBED TWO ZAMBIAN VILLAGES ON APRIL 9 AND A MISSION SCHOOL ON APRIL 11. (SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION INDICATES THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE, BUT THAT TWO PERSONS WERE INJURED.) CHONA MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ZAMBIA TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUEL AND SUPPLIES FOR ZAIRE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING THE US COULD DO.

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AMBASSADOR LOW'S COMMENT: SHOULD CHONA'S REPORT PROVE CORRECT, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND A MESSAGE OF APOLOGY AND SYMPATHY FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU. FOR THE TIME BEING WE THINK THE ZAMBIANS MAY KEEP THE MATTER PRIVATE, BUT THE AFFAIR CANNOT REMAIN QUIET LONG.

AMBASSADOR CUTLER'S COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE PLANNED OR CARRIED OUT SUCH AIR STRIKES. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT THE IMPLICATIONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO WARRANT RAISING THE MATTER WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. THE FACT THAT AMERICANS ARE LIVING NEAR THE AREA ALLEGEDLY BOMBED IS REASON ENOUGH. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUSAKA 953 AND 954 AND KINSHASA 3381, 4/11.)

2. BHUTTO'S POSITION WEAKENS

EMBASSY ISLAMABAD OBSERVES THAT LAST WEEKEND'S DISTURBANCES HAVE CLEARLY WEAKENED PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S POLITICAL

POSITION AND DISRUPTED HIS POST-ELECTION STRATEGY OF ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION WHILE GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF RETURNING PAKISTAN TO NORMALCY. OF KEY IMPORTANCE

IS THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS CENTERED IN LAHORE, WHICH THE OPPOSITION REALIZED IT MUST CARRY IF ITS ANTI-BHUTTO MOVEMENT WAS TO HAVE A CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING. THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT IT WILL NOW BE DIFFICULT FOR BHUTTO TO GRANT THE OPPOSITION FURTHER CONCESSIONS, AS THESE COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS SIGNS OF WEAKNESS.

THE PROSPECT IS THUS FOR INCREASED CONFRONTATION IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE ARMY REMAINS THE KEY FACTOR IN THE POLITICAL EQUATION, WITH THE STUDENT AND LABOR SECTORS (WHICH THUS FAR HAVE BEEN QUIET) ALSO PLAYING A PART. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS AGITATION TO CONTINUE, WITH THE OPPOSITION SHOWING RENEWED VIGOR AND CONFIDENCE. WHILE IT IS TOO SOON
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TO SAY THAT BHUTTO HAS BEGUN TO SLIP INEXORABLY, HIS ROOM FOR MANEUVER CERTAINLY HAS BEEN CIRCUMSCRIBED, AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 7, TIME MAY BE RUNNING AGAINST HIM. (CONFIDENTIAL) ISLAMABAD 3488, 4/11.)

3. BRAZILIAN PRESS SEES SHIFT IN US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

THE BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS CHARACTERIZED THE APRIL 5 CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR DERIAN AS REFLECTING A HIGH-LEVEL MODIFICATION, IF NOT REVERSAL, OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. IT GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO TODMAN'S COUNSELING THAT CUTS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE HARMFUL TO US RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND PERHAPS TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL. STILL WIDER COVERAGE WAS ACCORDED MS. DERIAN'S REMARKS. THE PRESS NOTED PARTICULARLY HER COMMENT THAT USE OF SANCTIONS IS AN ADMISSION OF PREVIOUS FAILURE, AND HER PREFERENCE FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON POSITIVE ACTIONS RATHER THAN SUCH MEASURES AS REDUCING AID.

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MAIN REASONS BEHIND THE ALLEGED POLICY SHIFT ARE THE DETERIORATION IN US/LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THE "FAILURE" OF SECRETARY VANCE'S MOSCOW TRIP. (UNCLASSIFIED) BRASILIA 2804, 4/11.)

4. KING KHALID'S HEALTH REMAINS POOR

THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE TOLD EMBASSY JIDDA APRIL 10 THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD CANCELLED PRESIDENT PEREZ'S APRIL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA BECAUSE OF KING KHALID'S HEALTH. THE CHARGE ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT KHALID

NEEDED YET ANOTHER OPERATION, THIS TIME ON HIS HEART, BUT
THAT HIS DIABETIC CONDITION RULED IT OUT. MEANWHILE, A
SAUDI OFFICIAL TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT KHALID IS EXPECTED TO
LEAVE LONDON SOON AND SPEND THREE WEEKS RECUPERATING IN

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GENEVA BEFORE RETURNING HOME. A SAUDI DOCTOR, WHO RECENTLY
CALLED ON THE KING, SAID HE SEEMED TO BE WALKING WELL BUT
LOOKED TERRIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 2712, 4/11.)
VANCE

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